

Newport Harbor Commission Objectives (DRAFT)

FY 2012 – 13

The 2012-13 Harbor Commission Objectives will be presented to the City Council as part of a *State of the Harbor* presentation. These objectives are intended to support the mission of the Harbor Area Management Plan, which is:

“To protect and improve the resources of Newport Harbor, Upper Newport Bay, and the ocean beaches to ensure their proper use and enjoyment by all things that derive life, recreation, or commerce from our City’s most important asset.”

In keeping with this mission, the Commission’s objectives for the coming year are intended to advance two over-arching purposes: (1) ensuring the long term welfare of our Harbor for all residential, recreational, and commercial users; (2) promoting Newport Harbor as a preferred and welcoming destination for visiting Southern California boaters and long-distance cruising yachts.

Ensuring the Long Term Welfare of Newport Harbor

1) Investigate potential solutions to two long-standing obstacles to maintenance dredging of private docks and areas of the harbor that are outside the scope of USACE projects. The primary obstacles are (1) the difficult permitting process and (2) a lack of small scale dredging operators. New environmental permitting strategies and effective deployment of smaller scale dredging equipment (public or private) will be studied and benchmarked with other California harbor communities. Report findings to the Council.

2) Develop recommendations for the highest and best public use of Lower Castaways, the last remaining undeveloped city-owned waterfront property. Report recommendations to the Council.

3) Study and develop recommendations for the reestablishment of harbor lines (bulk head, pier head, and project lines) so as to better conform with Harbor Code regulations and current uses of the harbor.

3a Alternative) Engage Harbor Resources Staff, City Attorney’s Office and USACE to test willingness to undertake the process of resetting the harbor lines and develop consensus in defining the best approach to this project. Report findings to the Council, seeking Council’s approval to proceed.

4) Develop recommendations to the City Council for greater effectiveness in the enforcement of certain provisions of the Harbor Code, e.g.:

Speed limit exception for sanctioned human powered and sail racing events

Rehabilitation or removal of derelict vessels

5) Identify strategies to improve boating education opportunities for beginners, novices and experts – particularly targeting Newport Beach residents.

6) Investigate implementation of a Harbor Bridge Adoption and Beautification program for several bridges, e.g. Lido Isle, Harbor Island, Balboa Island.

Promoting Newport Harbor as a Preferred and Welcoming Destination

1) Collaborate with Visit Newport Beach, Inc. to identify existing strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for developing our harbor as an even more desirable destination for visiting cruisers. Define specific strategies for increasing the number of visiting vessels, improving the visitor experience, and supporting the businesses which serve our visitors.

2) Evaluate public anchorage alternatives and develop a recommendation to the Council, specifically addressing the concept of retaining the Turning Basin anchorage recently established as a temporary measure during the 2012 harbor dredging project.

3) Evaluate the placement of existing public piers that facilitate visitor access to harbor area businesses and amenities. Develop recommendations for the repositioning or development of additional piers to improve visitor access.

Manager's Report

August 8, 2012

Harbor Resources



Lower Bay Dredging

- July 24: Council approved
 - Funding for Phase II Dredging
 - Cost sharing agreement with the County (City to front the dredging costs over County Tidelands, then County will reimburse later)
- July 31: County Board of Supervisors approved
 - Cost sharing agreement
- Phase II allows us to dredge most of the remaining high spots in the harbor

2012 Bathymetry

2012 Bathymetry Survey



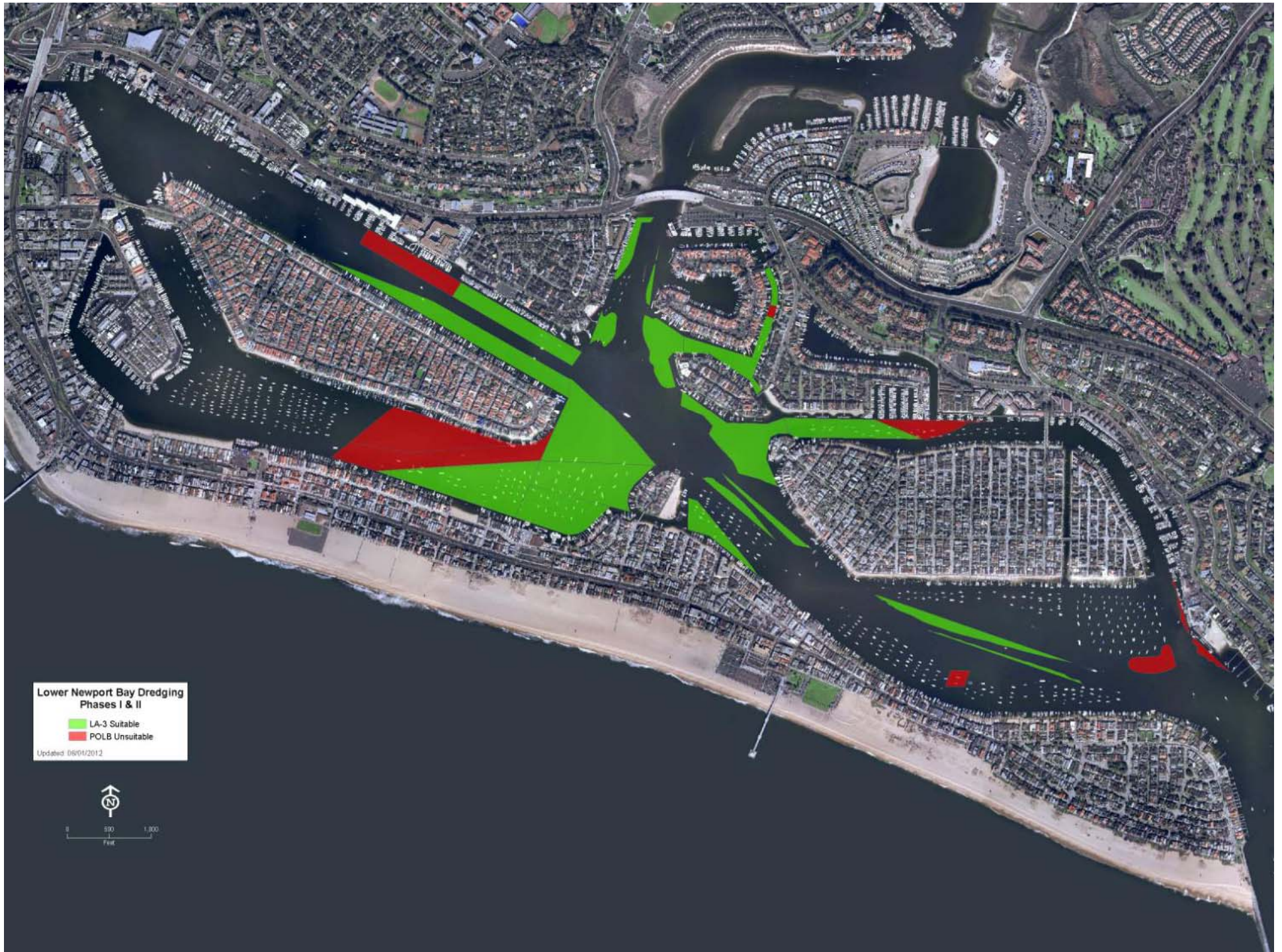
Red = High Spots

Phase I & II

Completed Nov 2011

Phase I Dredging
Phase II Dredging





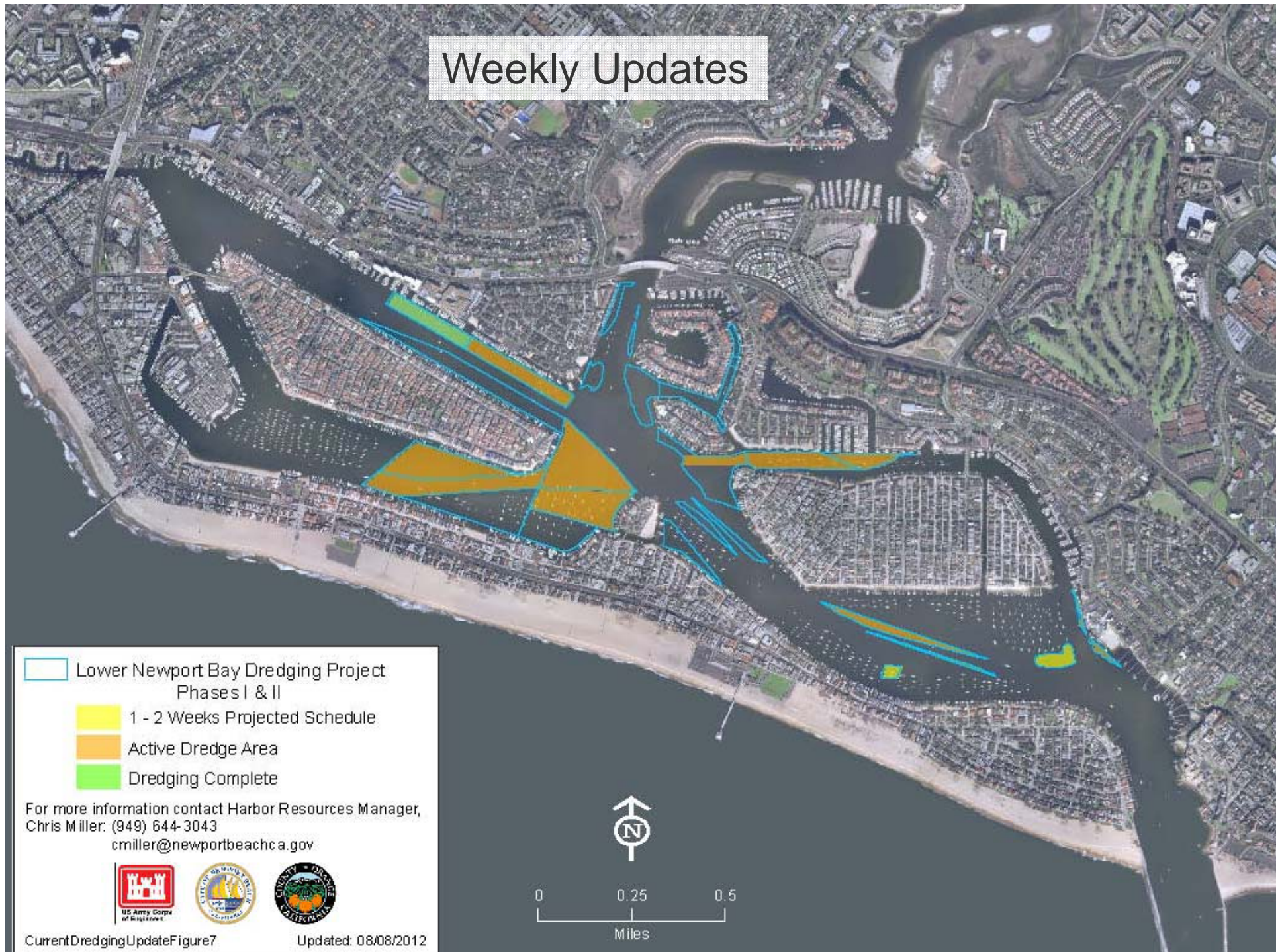
**Lower Newport Bay Dredging
Phases I & II**

- LA-3 Suitable
- POLB Unsuitable

Updated: 06/04/2012



Weekly Updates



RGP-54 Status

- Applications were submitted in May
 - CCC: Updated application sent in last week
 - Corps: Public Notice has not been posted. Following up.
 - Water Board: No status yet

Eelgrass

- Conceptually approved by National Marine Fisheries Service and the Water Board
- Still working with the Coastal Commission, but haven't received word yet

Other Issues

- Tidelands Management Committee
 - Next meeting Wednesday, August 15, 4:00 PM @ OASIS
 - Agendas posted:
<http://newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=1822>

Next Meeting

September 12, 2012
6:00 PM

For More Information

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